

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: BONN MEETING ON SPECIFIC CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS

REF: USNATO 7094

1. WE REGRET AMBASSADOR NOT INFORMED OF BONN MEETING IN
LIGHT OF ONGOING NATO CONSULTATIONS ON SUBJECT.

2. JULY 18 MEETING AT BONN WAS SUGGESTED PRIVATELY BY UK
TO US, FRG, FRENCH AND CANADIAN REPS DURING COURSE OF
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JUNE 30 NATO CONSULTATIONS ON THIS SUBJECT IN BRUSSELS.
UK EVIDENTLY WANTED TO DISCUSS WESTERN STRATEGY AND POSI-
TIONS IN ABSENCE OF SCANDINAVIAN NATO MEMBERS WHO MAY BE
MORE INCLINED TO SWEDISH VIEWPOINT ON SUCH QUESTIONS.
(SWEDES HAVE PROPOSED PROHIBITION OF USE OF BROAD CATEGORIES
OF WEAPONS, SUCH AS INCENDIARIES, WHICH WE ARE NOT PREPARED
TO ACCEPT.) ALTHOUGH WE HAD NOT ORIGINALLY EXPECTED SUCH

A MEETING BEFORE THE PREPCON, WE AGREED TO TAKE PART IN BONN MEETING.

3. FYI: THIS GROUP OF FIVE GOVERNMENTS CORRESPONDS TO INNER CORE" GROUP FORMED DURING 1973-77 LAW OF WAR

CONFERENCE THAT MET ONCE OR TWICE A YEAR (USUALLY INVOLVING DELEGATION HEADS AND MEMBERS) TO REVIEW CONFERENCE ISSUES, WHICH AT THAT TIME INCLUDED WEAPONS ISSUES.
END FYI.

4. AT BONN, UK INFORMED THE GROUP THAT THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT HAD EXPRESSED CONCERNS ABOUT THE MEETING ALONG LINES DESCRIBED IN USNATO 7094. THE PARTICIPANTS AT BONN AGREED THAT THE BRITISH SHOULD INFORM THE ITALIANS THAT THE MEETING WAS INTENDED ONLY AS AN INFORMAL GATHERING OF INTERESTED COUNTRIES, AND WAS NOT INTENDED AS A FORMAL GROUP TO THE EXCLUSION OF THE ITALIANS.

5. JACOBUCCI OF THE ITALIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON VISITED DEPARTMENT ON JULY 31. WE INFORMED HIM (IN CONFIDENCE) OF ABOVE, AND ASSURED HIM THAT THERE IS NO INTENTION TO EXCLUDE ITALIANS FROM WESTERN CONSULTATIONS. WE TOLD HIM THAT (APART FROM NATO CONSULTATIONS) WE EXPECTED WESTERN LIAISON GROUP TO BE THE PRIMARY MEANS OF COORDINATION OF
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WESTERN POSITIONS FOR UN CONFERENCE AND PREPCONS. (THIS GROUP HAS MET FROM TIME TO TIME, IN CONJUNCTION WITH LAW OF WAR AND RELATED CONFERENCES, TO DISCUSS WEAPONS ISSUES AND DRAWS IN IMPORTANT NON-NATO ALLIES SUCH AS AUSTRALIA AND JAPAN AS WELL AS NATO MEMBERS SUCH AS ITALY.)

6. US PLANS, OF COURSE, TO CONSULT FULLY WITHIN NATO ON THESE WEAPONS ISSUES, AND THIS PROCESS IS ALREADY UNDERWAY. DEPARTMENT HAS NO PRESENT INTENTION OF SUGGESTING ANY RESTRICTED MEETINGS, AND OF COURSE WOULD CAREFULLY CONSIDER IN EACH CASE THE NEED FOR SUCH A MEETING AND THE POSSIBLE REACTION OF THOSE NOT INCLUDED. (DEPARTMENT WILL ADVISE MISSION OF ANY FUTURE MEETINGS ON THIS SUBJECT INVOLVING SOME BUT NOT ALL NATO MEMBERS.)

7. YOU MAY ADVISE ITALIAN REPS OF ABOVE (IN CONFIDENCE) IF YOU FIND IT ADVISABLE. HOWEVER, BRITISH (AS ORGANIZERS OF BONN MEETING) AND FRG (AS HOSTS) SHOULD TAKE LEAD IN EXPLAINING THE MEETING. VANCE

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